

## Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /059 W

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R 121530Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3715

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 3539

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MT GR

SUBJ: MALTESE PRIME MINISTER VISITS GREECE

REF ATHENS 2565

1. THE PRIME MINISTER OF MALTA, DOM MINTOFF, VISITED ATHENS APRIL 6-9, FOR TWO DAYS OF ACTIVITIES DURING WHICH HE MET WITH PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS, PRESIDENT TSATSOS AND OTHER GOG OFFICIALS. SANDWICHED AS HE WAS BETWEEN VISITS OF TWO BALKAN NEIGHBORS -- ROMANIAN PRESIDENT CEAUDESCU AND BULGARIAN PRESIDENT ZHIVKOV-- MINTOFF'S IMPACT IN ATHENS WAS SLIGHT. NEVERTHELESS, HE WAS ACCORDED WARM TREATMENT BY THE GREEK MEDIA.

2. ACCORDING TO A FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE, THE MINTOFF VISIT ACHIEVED LITTLE IN THE SUBSTANTIVE AREA, BUT WAS A "FIRST STEP" IN LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR HITHERTOFORE "NON-EXISTENT" BILATERAL RELATIONS. THREE VERY GENERAL BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WERE INDEED SIGNED ON (A) TRADE, (B) TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, AND (C) CULTURE. PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS SAID THE TWO LEADERS DURING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEIR WORKING SESSION HAD FOUND THEIR VIEWS COINCIDING

CLOSELY ON ISSUES SUCH AS THE LOS CONFERENCE, OCEAN POLLUTION AND THE RESOLUTION OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN STATES BY PEACEFUL MEANS. FOR ITS PART, GREECE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO FURNISH MALTA WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. GREECE ALSO EXPRESSED A GENERAL INTEREST IN PROVIDING MODERN VESSELS TO EXPAND MALTA'S FISHING INDUSTRY. MINTOFF, IN TURN, PUBLICLY EXPRESSED SUPPORT ANEW FOR GREECE'S POSITION ON THE CYPRUS QUESTION AND INVITED GREECE TO JOIN IN A DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAM FOR MALTA, WHICH AREADY ENJOYS LIBYAN SUPPORT.

3. MINTOFF RECEIVED AN HONORARY DEGREE FROM ATHENS' PANTEIOS SCHOOL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE. DURING THE CEREMONY HE DELIVERED AN ADDRESS IN WHICH HE CRITICIZED THE "SUPER POWERS" AND POINTED TO MALTA AS BEING IN THE FOREFRONT OF A THIRD-WORLD MEDITERRANEAN CONSCIENCE. (TEXT OF ADDRESS HAS BEEN POUCHED TO VALETTA SEPARATELY.) HE ALSO MET WITH GREEK PRESIDENT TSATSOS AND FOLLOWED THE NORMAL PROTOCOLARY ROUTINE OF WREATH LAYING AND SOCIAL EVENTS. STEARNS

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## Message Attributes

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